

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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P R 130930Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3689

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0773

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS AO

SUBJECT: NAIROBI SUMMIT: STILL NOT A SURE THING

1. ALTHOUGH AN ADVANCE DELEGATION FROM MPLA HAS ALREADY LEFT LUANDA FOR NAIROBI TO CONFIRM ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SUMMIT SCHEDULED TO BEGIN JUNE 15, IT IS NOT YET CERTAIN THAT AUGUSTINHO NETO WILL ATTEND. HE HAS INDICATED HE WILL GO BUT SEEMS TO HARBOR A REASONABLE FEAR THAT THE OTHER TWO GROUPS WILL GANG UP ON HIM IN NAIROBI.

2. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL DEPENDABLE SOURCES, NETO WANTS TO MAINTAIN HIS FLEXIBILITY AND HAS ORGANIZED A "SPONTANEOUS DEMONSTRATION" BY YOUTH AND WOMEN'S GROUPS OF MPLA AT THE AIRPORT BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE. THE MASSES WILL SHOUT AND DEMAND THAT NETO NOT ATTEND A CONFERENCE OUTSIDE ANGOLA BECAUSE HE COULD BE ASSASSINATED. DEPENDING ON HIS THEN READING OF THE CHANCES FOR SUCCESS IN NAIROBI, NETO WILL THEN DELIVER EITHER A "GO" OR A "NO GO" SPEECH.

3. ON BALANCE WE TEND TO THINK HE WILL ATTEND BECAUSE OF THE OVERRIDING NEED TO APPEAR TO BE DOING SOMETHING TO REOLVE
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ANGOLA'S PROBLEMS. NETO WILL ONLY BACK OUT IF IT BECOMES

OBVIOUS HE WILL BE OUT-MANEUVERED IN NAIROBI AND SUFFER A GREATER LOSS OF PRESTIGE BY BEING FACED DOWN THAN BY BACKING DOWN AHEAD OF TIME.

4. MPLA'S DELEGATION TO THE SUMMIT IS EVENLY BALANCED BETWEEN THE MODERATE AND RADICAL WINGS OF THE MOVEMENT. THE MODERATES ARE HEADED BY LUCIO LARA, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A VISIT TO CHINA AND LOPO DE NASCIMENTO; MPLA MEMBER OF THE COLEGIAL PRESIDENCY AND INCLUDE MPLA'S TOP MILITARY MAN, IKO CARRIERA AS WELL AS TWO RESPECTED MULATTOS, JOSE VAN DUMEN AND DIOGENES BOA VIDA. OPPOSED TO THEM ARE A FACTION HEADED BY THE MILITARY COMMANDER OF MPLA'S FIRST MILITARY REGION, NITO ALVES, AND INCLUDING HERMANIO ESCORCIO AND SEVERAL MILITARY LEADERS. IT IS WIDELY FELT HERE THAT ALVES IS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND MPLA'S RECENT AGGRESSIVENESS BUT THAT HE TAKES HIS ORDERS DIRECTLY FROM NETO, WHO FINDS IT CONVENIENT TO BE ABLE TO BLAME EXCESSES ON "HOT-HEADS" FROM THE FIRST MILITARY REGION.
PORTER

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